

THE GOOD LIFE

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER
OF THE CBC PNA

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD

WOW!

The comments and feedback on our new and improved newsletter **The Good Life** was beyond our expectations. Thank you to all who submitted comments and suggestions for further improvement. Also, thanks for the articles submitted by other Chapters. In this edition, we are highlighting an article submitted from Calgary.

Just when we thought it could not get better, our membership is growing. A great deal of work has gone into inviting new members and a huge "Thank you!" goes out to Phil Peck and our local team as they constantly strive to contact both past and new co-workers.

As most of you are aware, the email blast sent on February 9 regarding the resignation of CBC PNA President Alain Pineau was disheartening. The SWO Chapter had the opportunity to have a meet and greet with Mr. Pineau as our guest speaker at our past Christmas party. We were very pleased with the kind words and informative speech that he gave. Mr. Pineau is an individual who always worked very hard for all our members, kept us up-to-date with the goings-on of the organization, and was always available to take a call and give sound advice. He took time out of his busy schedule to attend our Christmas party (as the first National President ever to visit Windsor). On behalf of our SWO Chapter, we all wish him well now and in the future. The SWO Chapter definitely intends to keep the friendship ongoing. Thank you once again!

Who better to step into this void than VP-Donald Langis. We wish Mr. Langis and his team continued success and, if they need any wine, we invite them to replenish their stock in beautiful southwestern Ontario.

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Outreach – Part of the Recruitment Strategy – Phil Peck

In early March, 160 CBC employees across Canada, including those in Windsor, signed up for a pre-retirement seminar. The CBC, the Guild and the PNA presented them online. At the same time, “PNA Day” was held at many CBC plants. In Windsor, Sandy Tymczak and myself spent part of a day at the Riverside Drive location, talking with future retirees about the PNA. We collected names and contact information of people who could become members of the Association in the near future. The goal of this activity is to make employees aware of the benefits of joining the PNA and have a list of future pensioners who can be invited to join when the time comes.

Here are the new members that have joined the SWO Chapter over the past few months:



Nancy Lauzon decided to join the Association after she heard Alain Pineau speak about the importance of joining the PNA. Nancy worked as a Sales Representative in Commercial Production and in Sales Administration.



Scott Galley worked in Toronto as a senior graphic designer for CBC News until last December. Scott moved to Thamesville and, as a member of the PNA, designed the new logo for the Ontario Region newsletter *Livewire*.



Darian Bernard became a PNA member when she started collecting her pension. Darian works as a Media Librarian and was previously an Avid editor, a film editor, and a script assistant. She started with CBC in 1975.



Bruce Walker was hired in Toronto as a scenic artist in the late 1980s. During his CBC career, he painted sets for many prominent network programs. He joined the PNA this year in hopes of preserving our quorum.



Jack Vethaak joined the PNA this year. Jack worked as a camera operator, an ENG Editor and Avid Editor, as well as other TV production roles.



Bob Steele left his career as a touring musician in 1987 and became a broadcaster. For the next 30 years, Bob worked as a reporter, producer, and announcer, finishing his career as host of Afternoon Drive on CBC Radio.

A New Volunteer - Brian Worrall



In the 42 years of his active career, Brian Worrall worked in television and radio journalism as a reporter/editor for CBC in Toronto, Windsor, and Charlottetown – and as a public relations consultant for the Province of Ontario, City of Mississauga, Windsor Public Library, City of Windsor and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Brian has produced communications programs and projects in most media, including TV, radio, social media, print and publicity events. Now retired, Brian is pleased to help his community where he can, and has volunteered to be proof editor for the ***Good Life*** newsletter.

From Our Friends

A Brief History of Tom - The Outstanding Technician Orvel Miskiw, CBC PNA, Calgary



I might have said “Thomas H. March,” but that might have sounded like the title of an obituary whereas, in fact, CBC's Tom March is alive and thriving in retirement in Calgary. He's a remarkable but unassuming person who deserves recognition among CBC people. Being a modest guy, he might protest some sort of biography. So, I'm doing this on the sly and, as a result, some specifics may not be quite right – but overall, it is a good picture of “his truth.”

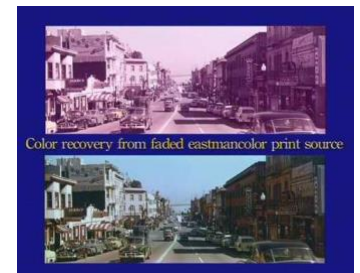
As a kid in Toronto in the 1950s, Tom was lucky enough to see a couple of movies produced in the new "Cinerama" format with its sweeping 146-degree curved screen and a powerful distributed speaker system that enveloped him in scenery and sound far beyond anything he'd ever known before. This experience stuck in his memory all his life. After public school, he trained as an electronics technician and joined CBC in Toronto in the early '70s. After a couple of years, he took a break to work for Ampex, then returned to CBC, and came west in the late '70s as a TV Maintenance Tech at CBC Calgary.

I met Tom about 1980 when I moved to Calgary from CBC Edmonton to work in Radio Operations. We were at opposite ends of the studio building and we were busy doing our own jobs. Eventually Tom discovered that the sedate surroundings of Radio were a comfortable lunch retreat from the mayhem of the TV end of the building. During lunch, staffers occasionally discussed small technical problems that our own Radio techs hadn't yet fixed. That's when we met the technical bulldog that is Tom March. He always investigated and solved the problem!

Through the many following good and interesting years at CBC Calgary, Tom applied his technical skills on the job – but also in photography, woodworking and machining in his home shop. He shunned prospective moves to administrative positions, preferring to solve technical and practical problems on the job, at home and for his many friends and new acquaintances.

During his vacations, Tom loved to motor through the US. Sometime in the '90s, he revived his fascination with Cinerama and photographed the locations used so many years previously to film American segments of Cinerama movies. He amassed a collection of “then and now” photo pairs and contacted a small group of Cinerama “believers” involved in finding old Cinerama materials and reviving them in digital formats.

Cinerama production was very complex, involving three movie cameras to record overlapping 35mm film strips and complex sound recordings. To show the films, three synchronized projectors, impressive amplifier-speakers, and huge curved screens were needed. So, during the '50s and '60s, only about seven actual Cinerama-process movies were ever produced. After that, source materials and movies mostly went into storage, to be slowly lost through aging and mishaps.





Retiring about 2006, Tom quickly immersed himself in the Cinerama-restoration project with his American colleagues. They located and scanned whatever materials still accessible – mostly faded, water or fire/heat/smoke-damaged, scratched or dirty. He built a multimedia super-computer with eight fast processors, 24GB of RAM, external hard-disk trays and ranks of high-capacity hard drives. He also ran another six laptops and a variety of software. He built a mini-Cinerama cinema with a projector and a custom curved screen in his basement. A complex arrangement of high-quality mirrors directed the projection. And all this was done on his own dime!

All of the true Cinerama movies have now been restored, with *The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm* completed last year. Tom and his colleagues have attended wide-screen festivals across the US and Europe, and have received glowing reviews.

Now, Tom lives quietly with his cat Freya in Calgary, always ready to solve technical or household problems for his neighbours and friends. He often hosts shows of classic movies in his own theatre – a generous friend and outstanding technologist to this day.



BLAST from the PAST



OBITUARY



Bertha (Judy) Hannah
March 2023 †

From the Vault



Big Broadcasts, Big Memories **Joanne Hoppe**

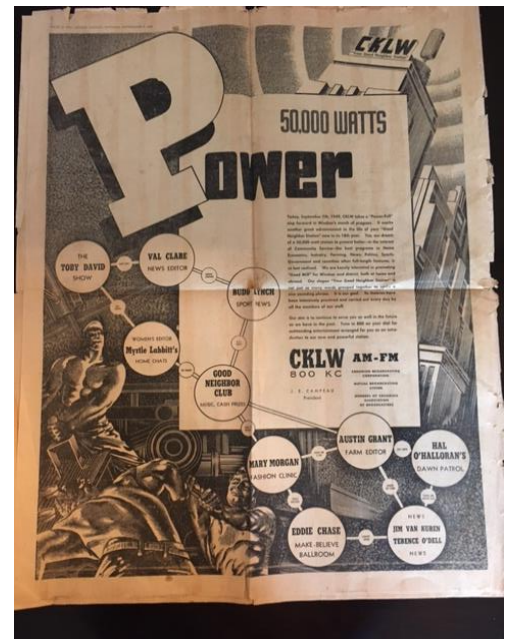


Recently, my mother-in-law, Nina Hoppe, presented me with a fragile, yellowed and flakey insert from *The Ledger* paper of London, Ontario, printed September 8, 1949. Her father was Bruce Chick, Editor of Continuity at the radio station CKLW (now AM 800) based in Windsor, and the insert shows ads from many businesses congratulating the station on a new transmitter and increased power. It is, in fact, a memento of some of the most innovative, exciting and memorable times in regional radio.

Prior to CKLW radio, there was CKOK, which signed on May 31, 1932, from three rooms in what was known as the Canada Trust Building in downtown Windsor. By 1949, the station, renamed CKLW, took up the whole 10th floor of the Canada Trust Building, with five studios and control rooms. The entire 33rd floor of the Guardian Building in Detroit was needed for office staff, sales and engineers.

To better serve the community, it was decided an increase in power was needed. With headlines such as *"50,000-Watt Transmitter Goes on The Air"* and *"Growth of Radio Station CKLW Accomplished Through Service Rendered by Efficient Staff,"* *The Ledger* described how a site in Harrow was found, and a building and five 300-foot towers were erected and joined underground by 40 miles of copper wire. Some of the 35 vacuum tubes used stood *"nearly four feet high and so delicate yet heavy that a small hydraulic lift dolly is necessary to place them in the sockets."* Broadcast power increased from 5,000 to 50,000 watts. The station would *"reach into 198 counties in five States and 24 counties in Ontario, making a potential audience of over eighteen million"* listeners. Ambitious.

Adjusting to public tastes and market competition, CKLW would change its production format over the years, from early variety, comedy and sports shows to the flamboyant "Big 8" personalities and R&B and soul (especially Motown) music of the late 1960s to mid-1970s. Long-time music director Rosalie Trombley could spot a hit in advance and, in July 1967, CKLW claimed the number one spot in the Detroit ratings for the first time. With big broadcast power and wildly popular content, CKLW became a huge hit on both sides of the international border. Whether in the kitchen or at the beach on our transistor radio, CKLW provided many of us with memorable background sound for our daily lives.



Thanks for the reminder, Nina!



National

The latest Contact email blast had this update, written by Dan Oldfield our representative on the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits, regarding the battle with the CBC and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

CBC's Vice President of People and Culture has released a statement about the status of the CBC Pension Plan (see attached). In it, he confirms that the plan is in a surplus position and that the corporation will be taking another pension contribution holiday this year.

While he paints the use of the expected windfall of \$53 million in glowing terms, he neglects to acknowledge the CBC's determined efforts to deny pensioners and employees any benefits of the plan's significant surplus.

In 2009, CBC signed a deal with its pensioners and the unions, agreeing to provide them with a share of future surpluses equal to any amount received by the corporation. This will be the second year the corporation has enjoyed a contribution holiday, which means the CBC will have benefitted from nearly 100 million dollars from the plan.

The CBC has reneged on its commitment to 10,000 retirees and employees. Rather than share the positive performance of the plan, it has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars fighting to deny them a benefit negotiated in good faith.

The CBC has always done the right thing by its retirees and employees, but the current leadership has shown a callous disregard for the contributions made over the decades that have made CBC what it is.

The PNA has taken the fight to arbitration, and we are currently awaiting a decision. Even though CBC management refuses to do the right thing, we are hopeful the decision by the arbitrator will resolve the issue in our favour.

Ontario Region Bylaws

Gerald Head (Past President Ontario Region) & Gino Piazza (SWO President)

On Wednesday April 19, the Ontario Region Board approved the revised proposed by-laws by a majority vote. The by-laws will now have to be approved by the general membership at the October /November Annual General Meeting. *"A Region must have by-laws that are essentially similar to and consistent with those of the Association. To assure consistency, the by-laws of a Region shall be ratified by the National Board."* (National Board by-law)

Article 3.2.5 of the National Board's by-laws states that, a) *"A Chapter representative will participate at least twice a year in the meetings of the Region Board of directors at the expense of the Region"*. Article 3.2.5 b) states, *"On these occasions, the Chapter representative will participate on the same basis (e.g., in person or by audio or video conference call) as other members of the Region Board of directors"*.

In each of those clauses quoted from The CBC Pensioners National Association by-laws it is clearly stated that *"a Chapter representative will participate..."*. The present and proposed Ontario Region by-laws in Article 3.2 Region Directors (paragraph 4) state, *"The President of each Chapter, in addition to their Chapter duties, will automatically become Region Directors when they are elected by the members of their respective Chapters."*

The SWO Chapter proposed to change this article to read, ***"Each Chapter will elect for a three-year term a member of their Chapter to represent the Chapter as a Region Director."***

In our opinion this proposed change is consistent with the National By-laws. By restricting the Chapter's right to decide, the Region is not encouraging the membership to get involved in the workings of the association. This restriction does not encourage succession planning. The person who would be elected to represent the Chapter would be totally cognizant of the wishes of the Chapter members and its Board. This person would have full and qualified rights to speak and act on all issues on behalf of the Chapter.



Article 11 Region Delegates to CBC PNA Triennial Convention

Paragraph 2 of the new Ontario Bylaws states, *“The Region Board will select delegates and alternates based on written expressions of interest from the membership. Region Board members will be given priority.”*

There is nothing in the National Bylaws that makes this same statement.

The SWO Chapter proposed to change this article to read, ***“The Region Board will approve selected delegates and alternates from each Chapter which will elect a member to represent the Chapter. Region Board members may fill in any vacant positions.”***

The National Bylaws say in Section 11.10, *“By March 1st of the year of the convention, at the latest, the Board of directors of each Region must forward the list of its accredited delegates and alternates, including those of its Chapters, to the national office of the Association.”*

This does not state that the Region Board determines who attends. It only states that the Region Board is responsible to tell the National Office who has been selected to attend. The Region Board should always be encouraging the membership to get involved. It is always best to get members from the Chapters to attend. That is what our SWO Chapter always sought to accomplish.

During the Virtual AGM of October 27, 2021, the following Addition to Ontario Region By-Laws was passed unanimously by the membership:

“The Ontario Region Board of Directors will invite each Chapter in the Ontario Region to select a delegate according to its own procedures. Then the Board will fill the remaining vacancies from among its members or members at large.”

This wording was not in conflict with National Board Bylaws, provided for succession planning, and gave members reason to become involved with the workings of the Association.

The wording being promoted by the Region Board virtually eliminates any chance that a Chapter member would ever be selected to attend the triennial convention.

The CBC Pensioners National Association by-laws do not state how delegates are to be chosen. It has been left to the Regions and Chapters to decide. Again, the Region Board is not looking to have grassroots representation but is giving itself priority.

When the SWO Chapter amendments were made **no one would second them**. The other Chapters involved in that Region Board meeting didn't have the foresight to see how they were being pushed out. When an amendment is proposed, if it is not seconded then it cannot be discussed and fails automatically. Whatever happened to having your voice heard? We cannot let this happen again!

What can we do about this? First, let the SWO Chapter Board know how you feel about the changes. Second, participate in the Ontario Annual General Meeting next October/November and during the discussion on the proposed by-laws let it be clearly known that you want change. Any member in good standing can propose to amend a by-law. When seconded, the discussion can begin and the push can be made to make these changes. These amendments will be put forth and they will be seconded. And, they will be discussed! These proposed changes are essential to Chapters being a functioning part of our Association.



SWO 20th Anniversary BBQ

*Chefs Manny & Gerry
once again will be grilling*

Saturday, July 22, 2023

3:00 pm start

1342 Stuart Blvd, Lasalle

Save this special date! This year we are celebrating **20 Years** of our annual summer BBQ. Gabe and Linda have graciously opened their backyard garden to us once again!

Directions – from central Windsor, take EC Row Expressway west to Matchette Road, turn left at the lights, go straight, and turn left on Stuart Blvd – it is the corner house 1342 Stuart Blvd, Lasalle

Your Chapter will provide the hamburgers, sausages, bottled water, soft drinks, etc. A dessert or pre-BBQ snack is always welcomed – please remember to bring your lawn chair

If there are any dietary restrictions, don't be shy
Please notify any Board member and we will take care of it!

FREE FOR ALL: PNA Members, Associate Members and Guests - RSVP by email or telephone, if possible, to any one of the Board members. This is a great time to introduce someone to the SWO Chapter and happy to answer any questions regarding the CBC PNA.

****NOTE – THE BBQ WILL TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE****



Gino



Sandy



Jackie



Gerry



Manny



Phil



Gerald

The Southwestern Ontario Board

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Director: Phil Peck (519-990-4941 ppeck@kelcom.net)
Director/Past President: Gerald Head (519-995-0345 gercarhead@gmail.com)

We were the first and are the longest-serving Chapter within the PNA organization.